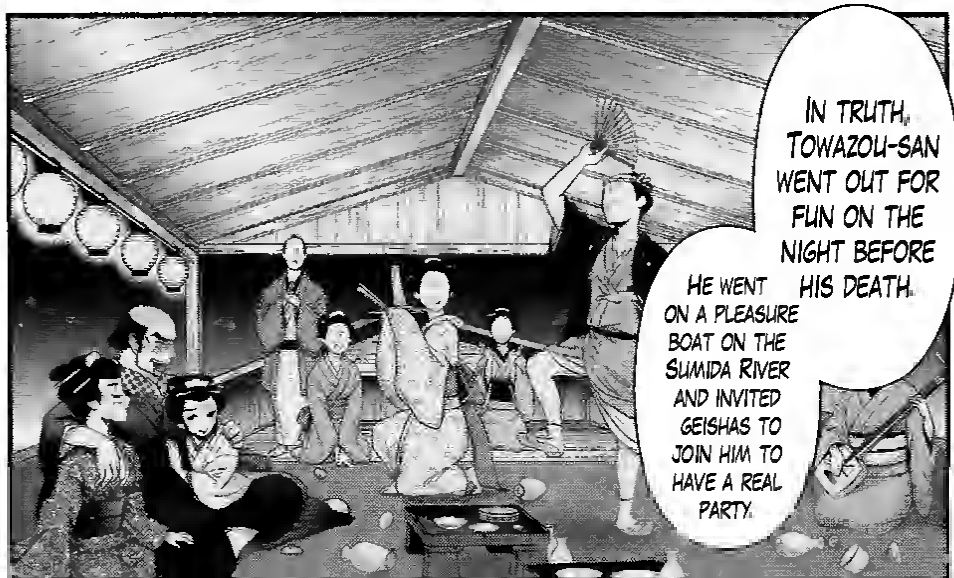
Chapter 5 The Chick Hears the Caged Bird's Song (Part 5)

I HAD... KEPT SOMETHING FROM YOU
I WILL NOW TELL YOU THE TRUTH
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, KOROKU-SAN?


IN TRUTH, TOWAZOU-SAN WENT OUT FOR FUN ON THE NIGHT BEFORE HIS DEATH.
HE WENT ON A PLEASURE BOAT ON THE SUMIDA RIVER AND INVITED GEISHAS TO JOIN HIM TO HAVE A REAL PARTY.

THEN DURING THE NEXT DAY
WHEN IT WAS TIME FOR HIM TO PERFORM, HE STILL HAD NOT SOBERED UP YET.
WENT INTO THE WATER LIKE THAT?!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
THEN, YOU'RE SAYING THAT TOWAZOU-SAN
PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
I BEGGED HIM OVER AND OVER
TO NOT DO IT BECAUSE IT WOULD BE BAD FOR HIS HEART, BUT

In the end...
I tried several times to try and tell someone this
But... I was just so scared
And it was because of that Hourai-san got tied up and taken away...
I am so terribly sorry!
This all happened because of me!
No way
Then... the reason Towazou-san died was because...

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NOW, LET'S ALL DRINK OUR FILL
SING AND MAKE MEERRY!!
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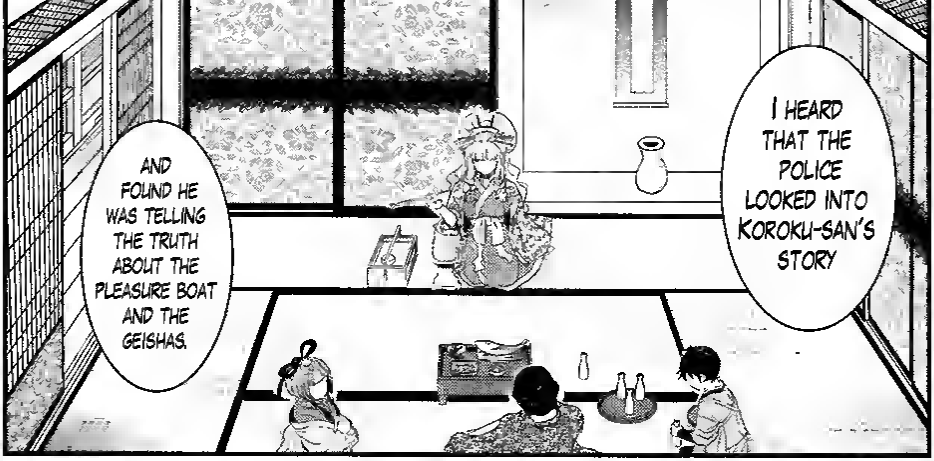
おく
THAT'S RIGHT, TONIGHT IS...

SOUJI-MAAAAAAI!!
SOUJIMAI IS WHERE ONE BUYS OUT AN ENTIRE BROTHEL IN THE RED-LIGHT DISTRICT SO AS TO ENGAGE IN WILD MERRYMAKING.
IT IS SAID THAT RESERVING AN ENTIRE NIGHT AT A FIRST CLASS BROTHEL LIKE KAIKAROU COSTS A THOUSAND RYO (OR ROUGHLY 80,000,000 YEN)
AND THE MONEY IS NOT JUST FOR THE PROSTITUTES BUT FOR OTHER CUSTOMERS, SERVANTS, AND ANYONE GOING IN AND OUT OF THE BROTHEL AS WELL.

LET ME LICK YOUR SWEET HONEY
NOW, PLEASE HURRY AND
ムハァ…
QUIT BUZZING AROUND
AHAHAHAHA
STOMP STOMP
WAIT, WAIT, DAMN YOU
AAAAH?!
WHO?! WHO WAS THE ONE WHO GAVE KOTETSU-SAN SAKE?!
AHAHA BRING ME MORE SAKEEEEEE!
MY WAKAUME BEE!
みつばっち～
ビギ～
NOOOO, I'LL STING YOU WITH MY POISON STINGEEER... RETIRED MASTER OF SAKAEYAAA
YOU MUST BE SO RELIEVED, RYUUNOSUKE-SAMA


I HEARD THAT THE POLICE LOOKED INTO KOROKU-SAN'S STORY
AND FOUND HE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT THE PLEASURE BOAT AND THE GEISHAS.

SO IN THE END, IT WAS A CASE OF TOWAZOU-SAN BEING DRUNK AND DYING AFTER HE WENT INTO THE POND ...
HOURAI-SAN AND OTOSE-SAN WERE ALSO FOUND INNOCENT, TOO!

AH! YOU SHOULD STOP! YOU'VE ALREADY DRUNK TOO MUCH, RYUUNOSUKE-SAN!
YEAH, AND IT'S BECAUSE OF ALL OF YOU... THANK YOU
YOU'RE REALLY OBSERVANT, HUH... IKUTAROU-KUN...
SORRY, I JUST FELT SO RELIEVED THAT I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF ...
HERE
YOU'RE ALSO... NOT AS ENERGETIC AS YOU WERE BEFORE SO YOU'RE SURE TO PASS OUT IF YOU HAVE ANY MORE
LOOK, YOU WERE FINE BEFORE BUT NOW EVEN YOUR EARS ARE RED ...

I FEEL AS THOUGH THE SONG KNOWN AS THIS CASE MAY NOT BE OVER YET
IS IT NOT TOO SOON TO FEEL RELIEVED?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
IKU-TAROU

OIRAN... JUST WHAT ARE YOU ...
NEE-SAMA?

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ACTUALLY, TO BE HONEST, I...
!

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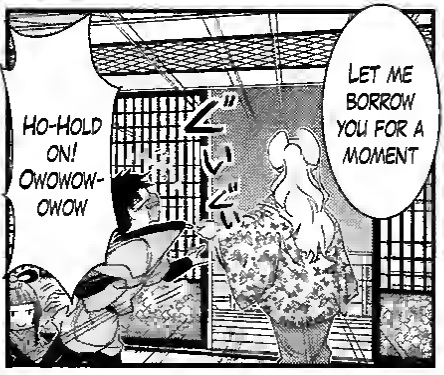
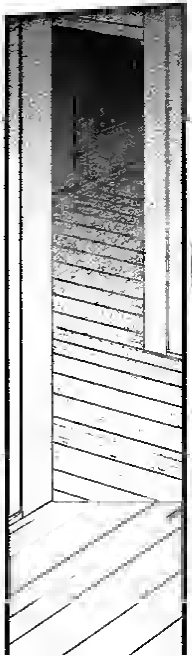
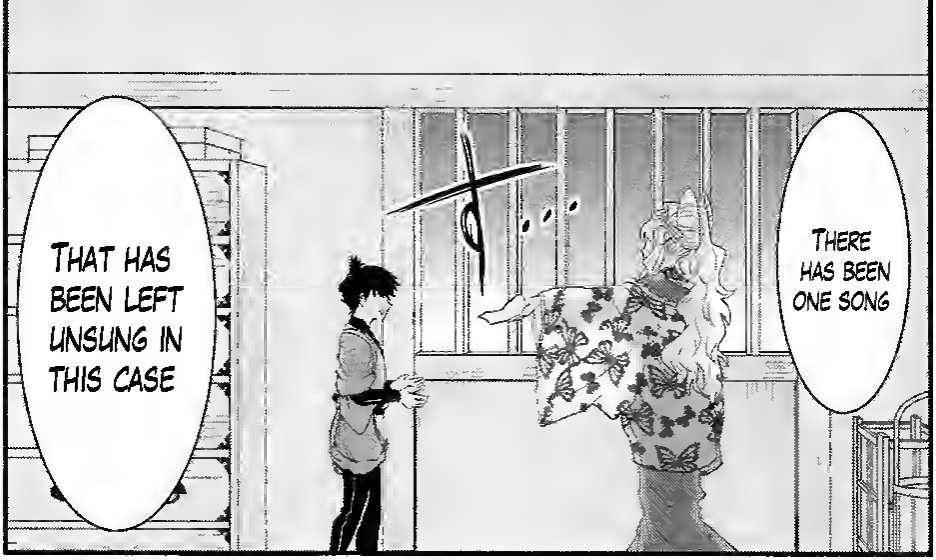
EH... UM...
O-OIRAN?


LET ME BORROW YOU FOR A MOMENT
HO-HOLD ON! OWOWOW-OWOW



EEH?! EVERYTHING'S FINE, ISN'T IT?! THE CASE IS OVER, RIGHT?!
.....
UKIHI-CHAN?!
YOU REALLY ARE HOPELESS, AREN'T YOU?
WHO CAN SAY...


THERE HAS BEEN ONE SONG
THAT HAS BEEN LEFT UNSUNG IN THIS CASE

THIS IS-!

FUYOU-SAN
SO SHE WAS STILL HOLDING ON TO WHAT I HAD FOUND...

THAT'S RIGHT!
TO BE HONEST, THIS SAWDUST AND THAT MARK IN THE POND WAS BOTHERING ME, TOO ...

On the day of Towazou's death, Odaka Hourai went into the pond during the afternoon performance and was fine.
As for the rehearsal for the evening performance, Koroku took Towazou's place and fell ill after going in.
The pond is only waist-deep and there were always stagehands nearby which would make poisoning the pond impossible.
For now, let us start from the beginning ...
There can be no doubt of that, is there.
No, but
When I went looking in the pond I found that sawdust and that mark in it.
I also don't think I'm wrong when I thought that sawdust came from Otose-san's ice.
Then

WHY WAS THERE SAWDUST AT THE POND? WHY DID SOMEONE MAKE THAT NOTCH?
THAT'S JUST IT ...
ぺら…
IF I REMEMBER RIGHT... HERE IT IS!
BASED ON WHAT THE CARPENTER EIGOROU-SAN SAID THESE MARKS ARE A SCALE TO HELP WITH FILLING THE POND WITH WATER.
ROCKS
WATER
IKUTAROU - DRAWING
SO THIS NOTCH MIGHT ALSO HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT...
HMMMM...
HUHUU
…?
WHAT IS IT?
I SEE YOU ARE REALLY PAYING ATTENTION.

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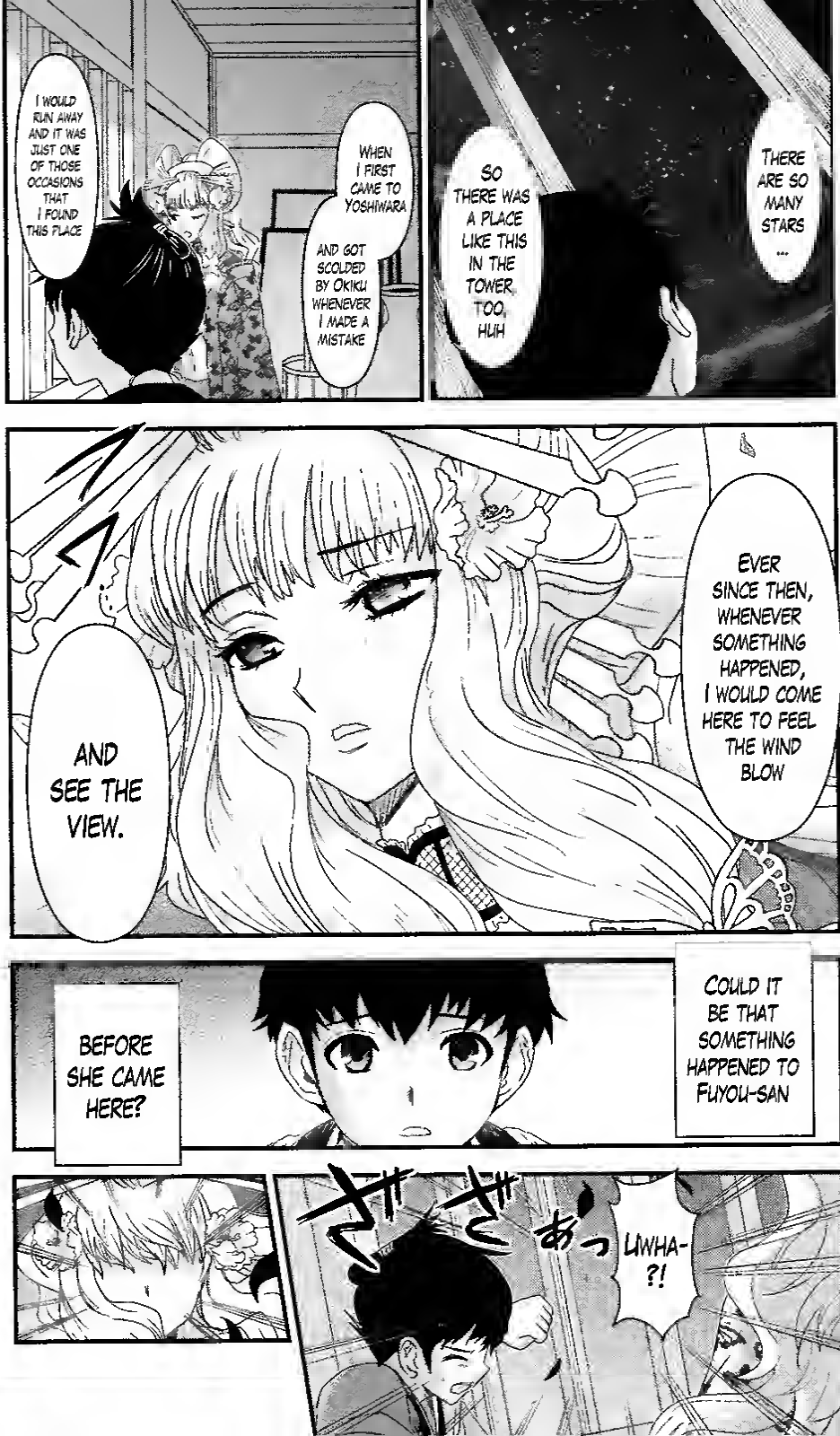
I WOULD RUN AWAY AND IT WAS JUST ONE OF THOSE OCCASIONS THAT I FOUND THIS PLACE
WHEN I FIRST CAME TO YOSHIWARA
AND GOT SCOLDED BY OKIKU WHENEVER I MADE A MISTAKE
SO THERE WAS A PLACE LIKE THIS IN THE TOWER, TOO, HUH
THERE ARE SO MANY STARS ...
EVER SINCE THEN, WHENEVER SOMETHING HAPPENED, I WOULD COME HERE TO FEEL THE WIND BLOW
AND SEE THE VIEW.
COULD IT BE THAT SOMETHING HAPPENED TO FUYOU-SAN
BEFORE SHE CAME HERE?
UWHA-?!
あっ

I AM A CAGED BIRD
HOWEVER, EVEN IF I AM IN YOSHIWARA AND SURROUNDED BY IRON BARS, I CAN STILL SEE THE STARS AND FEEL THE WIND BLOW
THAT'S WHY I AM ABLE TO SING EVEN IF I AM CAGED.
IT'S BECAUSE I DECIDED THAT I WOULD SING FOR NO ONE BUT MYSELF.
JUST WHAT MADE HER THIS STRONG?

I'M SORRY ...
SHE WANTS TO BE FREE, DOESN'T SHE?
FUYOU-SAN...
SOMETHING... HAPPENED TO ME BEFORE I CAME TO YOSHIWARA
EVEN THOUGH I HAD SAID THE TRUTH, PEOPLE JUST CALLED ME A "LIAR"
AND EVER SINCE THEN, EVERYONE STOPPED BELIEVING ME OR EVEN ACCEPTING ME...

I USED TO THINK THAT, "NO MATTER HOW PRETTY YOU ALL LOOK, YOU ARE ALL NOTHING BUT BIRDS IN A CAGE..."
"AND THAT I WASN'T. THAT I WASN'T SOLD AND AM ABLE TO GO OUTSIDE!"
I USED TO FEEL SOME STUPID SENSE OF SUPERIORITY... AND YET
YOU ARE MORE FREE THAN I EVER WAS!!
THAT'S WHY, I-
HUH
JUST WHAT IS IT THAT YOU HAVE TO APOLOGIZE FOR?
WHETHER YOU LOOK DOWN ON SOMEONE OR SOMEONE LOOKS DOWN ON YOU, IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE... SUCH THINGS ARE SEEN EVERYWHERE AND IT IS NOT INTERESTING IN THE SLIGHTEST.
I WANT TO KNOW...

THE SAWDUST... THAT NOTCH
AND THAT SCALE...

JUST WHAT CONNECTS THEM?!

MORE ABOUT HOW SHE BECAME SO STRONG!
I WONDER IF I WILL BE ABLE TO FIND OUT IF WE SOLVE MORE MYSTERIES TOGETHER ...
I WONDER IF I'LL BE ABLE TO GET EVEN A LITTLE CLOSER TO FINDING THAT OUT ...

……
-E-
SAMA
カリ!
NEE-
SAMAAAA
OH,
WHAT
IS WITH
YOU?
YOU HAVE
BEEN DOING
NOTHING BUT
STARING INTO
SPACE SINCE
LAST NIGHT
WELL,
IT WAS
HECTIC
YESTERDAY
BOTAN-
NEE-
SAMA
AT
TIMES
LIKE
THESE
WE
SHOULD ALL
TAKE A BATH
AND REFRESH
OURSELVES!

In Edo, most everyone has to go to bath houses and bathe together.
However, the brothels in Yoshiwara were given special permission by the government to allow them to have their own private baths.
カポーン…
ナーぱー
Aaaahn, oh honestly
Just what am I going to doooo?
ぷるるるん♥

LATELY MY BREASTS HAVE BEEN GROWING AGAIN AND NOW MY SHOULDERS ARE GETTING STIIIFF...
I'M SO JEALOUS OF YOU, FUYOU, I WISH MINE WERE AS SMALL AS YOURS.
I SEE, I AM JEALOUS OF YOU AS WELL.
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU DO NOT THINK AT ALL.
I WONDER IF IT IS BECAUSE ALL THE NUTRIENTS WENT TO YOUR BREASTS INSTEAD OF YOUR BRAIN.
RATTLE RATTLE
KHHHHHH
WHAT? ARE YOU CALLING ME STUPID?
NOW, NOW.
DON'T GET SMART WITH ME!!
I'M GONNA GET YOU, I'M GONNA GET YOU
I'M GONNA DODGE, I'M GONNA DODGE
TAKE THIS- AH!
?

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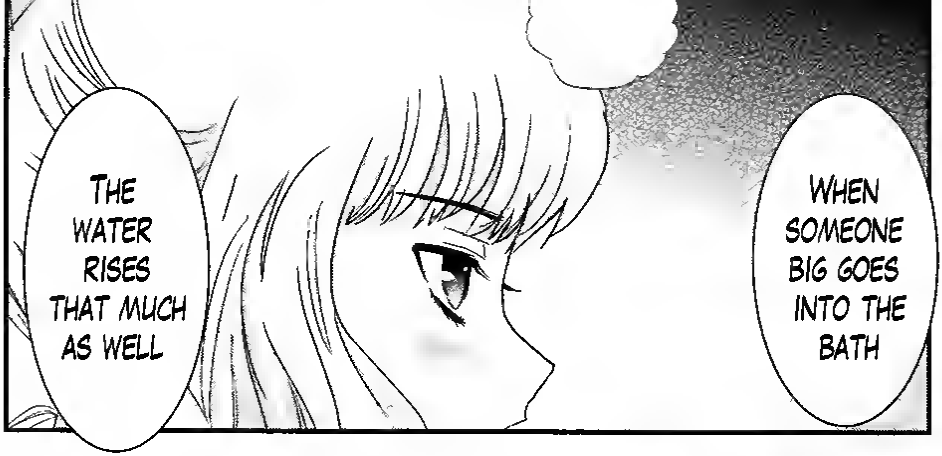
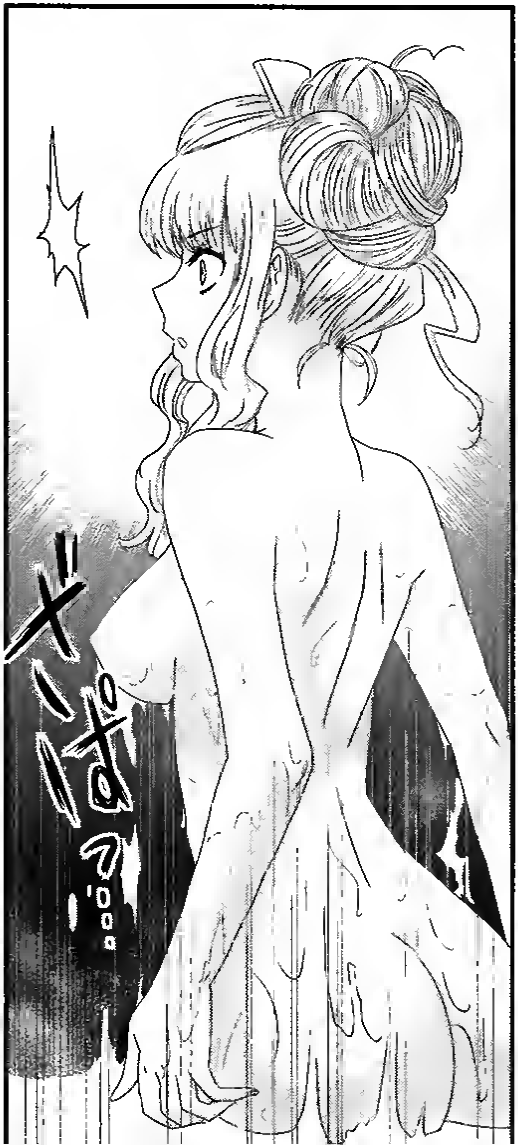
ポタ…
GIRLS...
KNOCK IT OOOFF
I KNOW SINCE YA LIKE PLAYING IN THE BATH SO MUCH I'M GONNA SINK YA RIGHT TO THE BOTTOM OF IT!!
ゴゴゴゴ
WA-WA-WA-WAKAME-NEE-SAN WENT BACK TO HER NATIVE TONGUE!!
SHE'S SPEAKING ALIEN!!
THIS IS REALLY BAD
SHE'S REALLY LOST IT!
PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT
"BLUB"BLUB "BLUB" THIS IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE!
THIS IS ABUUUUUUSE! "BLUB"BLUB "BLUB"
バババ

OH HONESTLY!
YOU FOOLED AROUND WAY TOO MUCH!!
JUST LOOK AT HOW LITTLE BATH WATER WE HAVE NOW!
OH DEAR, I GUESS WE HAVE NO CHOICE THEN
YATSUDE-CHAN, WE NEED YOOOOU!!
COOOOOMING
YAT-SUDE-NEE-SAMA
HAS SHE... GOTTEN BIGGER SINCE LAST TIME?

Here I goooo!

YAAAAAAAY
THE TUB IS COMPLETELY FULL NOOOOOW!!
YO... YOU'RE AMAZING, YATSUDE-NEE-SAMA
ぐっしょり..
HUHU... I DO THIS A LOT
WELL DONE, BOTAN-NEE-SAMA!
SHEESH, EVEN LIKE THAT, YOU STILL RAKE IN A GOOD AMOUNT OF MONEY SO I BETTER NOT UNDERESTIMATE YOU.
NO PROBLEM
THANK YOU, YATSUDE-CHAN!
WHEN SOMEONE AS BIG AS HER USES THE BATH, THE WATER GOES UP THAT MUCH, TOO.


WHEN SOMEONE BIG GOES INTO THE BATH
THE WATER RISES THAT MUCH AS WELL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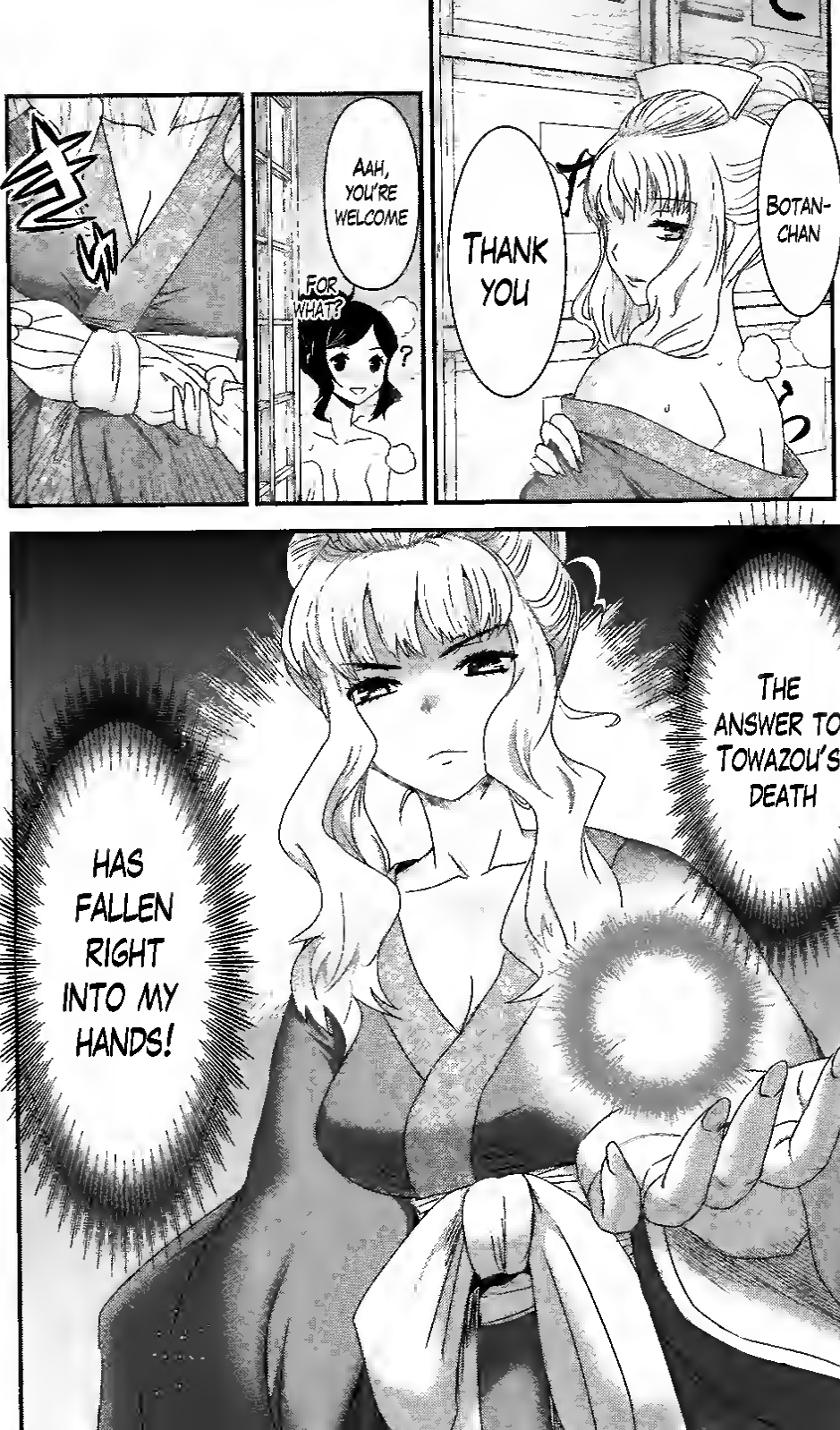
Ukiha
Call for Ikutarou
Just call him and be quick about it!
Very well
Ikutarou-san? Why?
I thought Towazou-san's case was ...
What is it, Fuyou-chan?


BOTAN-CHAN
THANK YOU
AAH, YOU'RE WELCOME
FOR WHAT?
?
THE ANSWER TO TOWAZOU'S DEATH
HAS FALLEN RIGHT INTO MY HANDS!

DEUS EX SCANS

OSHIGERINANSHI

CHAPTER 05
VOLUME 1

TRANSLATOR
GOTTERSTECHEN007

CLEANER REDRAWER
NJMANGA

PROOF-
GOTTERSTECHEN007

TYPESETTING
NJMANGA

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